

FORM NO.  
MAR 1952 51-4C

(20)

CLASSIFICATION C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD

COUNTRY Korea  
SUBJECT Economic - Industry, wage ratesDATE OF  
INFORMATION 1950-1954HOW  
PUBLISHED Monograph, yearbooks, newspapers

DATE DIST. 25 Oct 1954

WHERE  
PUBLISHED P'yongyang, Haeju, Peiping, Hong Kong

NO. OF PAGES 9

DATE  
PUBLISHED 1 Jan 1950-24 Apr 1954

LANGUAGE Korean, Chinese

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793  
AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVE-  
LATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS  
PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE As indicated

BASIC WAGE RATES OF NORTH KOREA

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Nodongja Ingump'yo (Labor Wage Rates), published 25 February 1950 by the Ministry of Labor of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, lists the basic wage rates of North Korean factory workers and those in nonprofessional trades. According to this document, the North Korean wage system is divided into three broad categories according to working conditions, namely, light work, heavy work, and underground and hazardous work. Higher wages are paid to workers in the second category than to those in the first, and to the workers in the third category than to those in the second. The first category (light work) includes light industries, general trade, and the printing industry. The second category (heavy work) includes the railway, manufacturing, electrical construction and construction materials, communications, agriculture, forestry, fishery, and salt industries. The third category (hazardous work) includes mining, chemical, and metal industries and also the hazardous phases of industries in the first and second categories.

Nodongja Ingump'yo also showed that in addition to occupational wage differentials, there are qualification differentials as determined by the skill and experience of the workers. The general wage scale is divided into eight grades, ranging from grade 1, which is the lowest paid, to grade 8, the highest paid. The wage scale shows the rates for timework and for piecework, as shown in Table 1 below. (1) These rates had remained unaltered since 1949, for the Choson Chungang Nyongam 1953 (Korean Central Yearbook, 1953) republished these rates in their original form as announced on 27 December 1949 under Cabinet Decision 196. (2)

The wage coefficients determine how much more a worker of a given grade is paid than one in the first, or the lowest-paid grade. (1) According to Hwanghae Nodong Sinmun (Hwanghae Labor Newspaper) of 1 January 1950, the wage rating committees formed in factories and unions determine and assign grades to individual workers, based on the committees' appraisal of the workers' skill and experience.

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	AIR	FBI							

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

The paper said that "the committees, upon discovering improved skill on the part of worker, must raise the workers' wage according to the established wage scale." However, the paper also said that, "when a worker produces unacceptable goods his wage will be reduced."(3)

According to the Choson Chungang Nyongam 1950 (Korean Central Yearbook, 1950), a piecework bonus system was adopted to stimulate production. For example, workers in hazardous occupations received bonuses in the form of extra ration coupons: 100 grams of ration per day for production from 110 to 130 percent of norm; 175 grams for 131-150 percent, and 250 grams for production above 150 percent.(4) The 1953 yearbook reported that the total value of bonuses that North Korean workers received during 1950 reached 261,042,000 won. Also, according to this yearbook, North Korean workers received 515 million won worth of "labor subsistence" handouts during that year.(2)

The newspaper Ta Kung Pao published in Hong Kong reported that the North Korean cabinet decreed on 23 February 1954 that workers should receive a labor subsistence subsidy up to 25 percent of their basic wage.(5)

The 1950 yearbook stated that the average earnings of workers had been increasing steadily since 1947. The average earning in 1948 was 3.7 percent higher than 1947; in 1949, 14.3 percent above 1947.(4) The 1953 yearbook showed that the average earning as of March 1950 was 38.5 percent above 1947.(2) The Jen-min Jih-pao, published in Peiping, reported that in early 1954 the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had announced a 25 percent average increase in wages.(6) Other Chinese papers stated that besides increasing the basic wage, the government had maintained the policy reducing official commodity prices to increase the real income of workers.(7, 8, 9)

Tables 2 through 4 appended below, which were taken from the Nodongja Ingump'yo, show the range of grades and the monthly wage rates for the timeworkers of selected occupational groups, as of 25 February 1950.

- 2 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Table 1. Wage Scale

Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Wage Coefficients	1.00	1.10	1.30	1.55	1.85	2.20	2.60	3.10
<u>Types of Work</u>	<u>Types of Pay</u>	<u>Timework</u>						
Light work	Hourly	2.40	2.64	2.88	3.41	4.08	4.85	6.87
	Daily	19.23	21.15	23.07	27.30	32.69	38.84	52.00
	Monthly	500.00	550.00	600.00	710.00	850.00	1,010.00	1,430.00
Heavy work	Hourly	2.50	2.74	3.12	3.70	4.42	5.28	7.45
	Daily	20.00	21.92	25.00	29.61	35.38	42.30	59.61
	Monthly	520.00	570.00	650.00	770.00	920.00	1,100.00	1,550.00
Underground and hazard- ous work	7-hour day (hourly)	2.96	3.24	3.90	4.61	5.49	6.53	9.17
	8-hour day (hourly)	2.59	2.83	3.41	4.03	4.80	5.72	8.02
	Daily	20.76	22.69	27.30	32.30	38.46	45.76	64.23
	Monthly	540.00	590.00	710.00	840.00	1,000.00	1,190.00	1,670.00
<u>Piecework</u>								
Light work	Hourly	2.45	2.69	3.17	3.79	4.51	5.38	7.59
	Daily	19.61	21.53	25.38	30.38	36.15	43.07	60.76
	Monthly	510.00	560.00	669.00	790.00	940.00	1,120.00	1,580.00
Heavy work	Hourly	2.64	2.88	3.41	4.08	4.85	5.81	8.17
	Daily	21.15	23.70	27.30	32.69	38.84	46.53	65.38
	Monthly	550.00	600.00	710.00	850.00	1,010.00	1,210.00	1,700.00
Underground and hazard- ous work	7-hour day (hourly)	3.24	3.55	4.23	5.05	5.98	7.14	10.05
	8-hour day (hourly)	2.83	3.07	3.70	4.43	5.24	6.25	8.79
	Daily	22.69	24.61	29.61	35.30	41.92	50.00	70.38
	Monthly	590.00	640.00	770.00	920.00	1,090.00	1,300.00	1,830.00

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Table 2. Basic Wage Scale For Light Work

<u>Types of Workers</u>	<u>Range of Grades</u>	<u>Monthly Wage in Won</u>
<u>Light Industries</u>		
Scalemakers and repairmen	8 - 4	1,430 - 710
Ginseng processors	8 - 3	1,430 - 600
Cotton weavers, silk processors, rubber products makers	7 - 2	1,200 - 550
Paint manufacturing, rayon dyers	6 - 3	1,010 - 600
Makers of knitted goods, pulp, starch, rayon	6 - 2	1,010 - 550
Wool inspectors	5 - 1	850 - 500
<u>General Trade</u>		
Sanitation workers, butchers, papermakers	6 - 3	1,010 - 600
Watchmakers, undertakers, stone carvers	6 - 2	1,010 - 550
Barbers, beauticians, hairdressers, handicraftsmen, engravers	6 - 1	1,010 - 500
Store clerks, warehousemen, laundry workers, cooks, guards, and doormen	5 - 1	850 - 500
Waiters, day laborers	4 - 1	710 - 500
Elevator operators	3 - 1	600 - 500
Messengers	2 - 1	550 - 500
<u>Printing and Publishing</u>		
Artists	8 - 4	1,430 - 710
Offset printing machine operators, offset lithographers	7 - 3	1,200 - 600
Matrix engravers	7 - 2	1,200 - 550
Proofreaders, printers	6 - 4	1,010 - 710
Lithograph machine operators	6 - 3	1,010 - 600
Type-pickers, typesetters and compositors, type-printing machine operators, papier-mache moldmakers, bookbinders	6 - 2	1,010 - 550

- 4 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Table 3. Basic Wage Scale for Heavy Work

<u>Railroad and Other Transportation Facilities</u>	<u>Range of Grades</u>	<u>Monthly Wage in Won</u>
Locomotive engineers, locomotive inspectors, navigators and engineers for motor schooners and freighters	8 - 6	1,550 - 1,100
Electric locomotive engineers	7 - 5	1,300 - 920
Internal-combustion engine mechanics	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Automobile drivers	6 - 5	1,100 - 920
Train conductors	6 - 4	1,100 - 770
Locomotive firemen	6 - 3	1,100 - 650
Railroad freight attendants, signalmen, and safety men; ship crews	5 - 4	920 - 770
Railroad track inspectors, switchmen	5 - 3	920 - 650
Railroad communications men	4 - 2	770 - 570
Streetcar conductors, railroad station clerks	4 - 1	770 - 520
<u>Manufacturing</u>		
Wooden-vessel builders, engine assemblers, general mechanics, boiler tenders	8 - 3	1,550 - 650
Plumbers, pipe fitters	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Electric and gas welders, lathe operators	7 - 3	1,300 - 650
Riggers, grinding lathe operators, ball bearing polishers	6 - 2	1,100 - 570
Conveyer operators	5 - 2	920 - 570
Lubricators, screwmakers	4 - 1	770 - 520
<u>Electrical Industry</u>		
Electric generator operators, outdoor linesmen	8 - 4	1,550 - 770
Distributor tenders	8 - 3	1,550 - 650
Generator and transformer repairmen, indoor linesmen	7 - 3	1,300 - 650
General electricians	6 - 2	1,100 - 570
Electricity bill collectors	5 - 4	920 - 770

- 5 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

<u>Construction and Construction Materials</u>	<u>Range of Grades</u>	<u>Monthly Wage in Won</u>
Refractory brickmakers, stone layers	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Glassmakers, carpenters, stonemasons, plasterers, ferroconcrete workers	7 - 3	1,300 - 650
Pavement-roller operators, slate workers, cement workers	6 - 4	1,100 - 770
Electric shovel operators, asphalt workers, concrete workers, bricklayers, crane operators, slate makers and brickmakers	6 - 3	1,100 - 650
Tile layers, tilemakers, adobe workers	5 - 3	920 - 650
<u>Communications</u>		
Radio operators	8 - 4	1,550 - 770
Telegraph operators	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Radio repairmen	7 - 3	1,300 - 650
Telephone repairmen, telephone linesmen	7 - 2	1,300 - 570
Telegraph machine repairmen, communications inspectors	6 - 2	1,100 - 570
Communications clerks	5 - 2	920 - 570
<u>Forestry</u>		
Forest clearers, cable-car operators, log transporters driving oxcarts	7 - 5	1,300 - 920
Raftmen (deep rivers), railroad tie makers	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Sawmen	7 - 3	1,300 - 650
Raftmen (shallow rivers), firewardens, milling machine operators, charcoal makers	6 - 4	1,100 - 770
Trimmers	6 - 3	1,100 - 650
Veneer mill workers, lumber selectors, two-man saw operators	5 - 3	920 - 650
<u>Fishery, Agriculture, and Salt Industries</u>		
Fishing boat navigators	8 - 6	1,500 - 1,000
Saltmakers, fishing-boat engineers, tractor drivers	7 - 4	1,300 - 770
Cocoon selectors	7 - 3	1,300 - 650

- 6 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

	Range of Grades	Monthly Wage in Won
Herb growers	6 - 3	1,100 - 650
Farm and orchard workers	6 - 2	1,100 - 570
Oil extractors, silkworm eggs selectors	5 - 3	920 - 650
Agar-agar makers, fishpowder makers, salt field laborers, herdsmen, nurserymen	5 - 2	920 - 570
Dieticians (animal food)	4 - 2	770 - 570
Rabbit and poultry raisers	4 - 1	770 - 520

Table 4. Basic Wage Scale for Underground and Hazardous Work

Mining

Coal and ore miners, strutters	8 - 4	1,670 - 840
Hand truckers	7 - 5	1,400 - 1,000
Dynamite handlers, mine safety men	7 - 4	1,400 - 840
Surveyors	7 - 3	1,400 - 710
Rail-truck maintenance men, open-mine ore haulers	6 - 4	1,190 - 840
Underground mechanical equipment operators, mining shaft maintenance men	6 - 3	1,190 - 710
Pneumatic drillers, briquette makers	6 - 2	1,190 - 590
Underground general laborers	5 - 4	1,000 - 840
Mining-railway engineers, placer miners, cableway operators, stone crushers	5 - 2	1,000 - 590
Coal selectors	4 - 3	840 - 710

Chemical

Workers in plants manufacturing sulfuric acid, lead, carbides, caustic soda, bleaching powder, nitrogen fertilizers; repairmen for sulfuric acid apparatus, sulfide crushers, nitrogen separators, high-pressure compressors; electric furnace tenders for manufacturing phosphoric acid	8 - 4	1,670 - 840
--	-------	-------------

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

	Range of Grades	Monthly Wage in Won
Workers in plants manufacturing acetic acid, calcium chloride, methanol, ammonium catalytic synthetics; air compressor operators, aluminum furnace tenders, aluminum crushers, electrode furnace tenders	7 - 5	1,400 - 1,000
Workers in plants manufacturing mercury, oxygen, chemical salt, nitric acid, hydrogen, hydrochloric acid, oxide materials, ammonium sulfate fertilizers, soap; operators of nitrogen separators, ammonium mixers; repairmen for electrolysis apparatus and methanol manufacturing machines	7 - 4	1,400 - 840
Workers in plants manufacturing alcohol, solid caustic soda, hydrogenated oil, lyophilic enzyme, glycerin, urotropin, celluloid, nitro-glycerin, asbestos; gas mixers; sulfuric materials transporters; phosphate sintering furnace tenders; oxidization machine operators, electrode materials crushers	6 - 4	1,190 - 840
Oils and fats, and ether manufacturing workers	6 - 3	1,190 - 710
Workers in plants manufacturing magnesium sulfate	6 - 2	1,190 - 590
Workers in plants manufacturing electrode carbon and black gunpowder	5 - 3	1,000 - 710
Workers in plants manufacturing carbon, paraffin, bakelite, batteries, and smokeless gunpowder	5 - 2	1,000 - 590
<u>Metallurgical</u>		
Workers in plants manufacturing pig iron and rolled steel; open-hearth, electric furnace, and blast furnace tenders; furnace installers	8 - 4	1,670 - 840
Ferroalloy electric furnace, sintering furnace, and sherardizing furnace tenders; carbon-arc welders; makers of converter steel and special steel	7 - 4	1,400 - 840
Thick-steel-plate cutters, steel pipe makers, pentlandite sorters, roasting furnace tenders, operators of "cottrell" precipitators	6 - 4	1,190 - 840
Thin-steel-plate cutters, steel wire cutters, crane operators, scrap-iron workers	5 - 2	1,000 - 590
<u>Light Industries</u>		
Staple fiber and rayon "projector" operators; "projector" repairmen; sodium sulfide and carbon disulfide manufacturing workers	7 - 4	1,400 - 840

- 8 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L



50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

<u>Construction and Construction Materials:</u>	<u>Range of Grades</u>	<u>Monthly Wage in Won</u>
Divers, plate glass workers	8 - 4	1,670 - 840
Cement kiln tenders	7 - 3	1,400 - 710
Lime kiln tenders; magnesium bakers	6 - 4	1,190 - 840
<u>Printing</u>		
Copperplate handlers	7 - 3	1,400 - 170
Typemakers	6 - 2	1,190 - 590
Stereotype workers	5 - 2	1,000 - 590
<u>Railroad</u>		
Locomotive boiler repairmen	7 - 4	1,400 - 840(1)

## SOURCES

1. P'yongyang, Nodongja Ingump'yo (Labor Wage Rates), Ministry of Labor, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 25 Feb 50
2. P'yongyang, Choson Chungang Nyongam 1953 (Korean Central Yearbook, 1953), Choson Chungang T'ongsin-sa, 11 Nov 52
3. Haeju, Hwanghae Nodong Sinmun (Hwanghae Labor Newspaper), Hwanghae-do Labor Party, 1 Jan 50
4. P'yongyang, Choson Chungang Nyongam 1950 (Korean Central Yearbook, 1950), Choson Chungang T'ongsin-sa, 20 Feb 50
5. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 2 Mar 54
6. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 24 Apr 54
7. Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 20 Oct 53
8. Kung-jen Jih-pao, 3 Jan 54
9. Ta Kung Pao, 13 Apr 54

50X1-HUM

- E N D -

- 9 -

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L